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Message Text

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PAGE 01 TOKYO 05497 150936Z
ACTION H-03

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 ISO-00 SS-07 NSC-06 AID-01 /024 W
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P R 150905Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO
TO AMEMBASSY MANILA PRIORITY
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 7002

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 5497

PLEASE PASS TO CODEL WOLFF

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OREP (WOLFF, LESTER L.)
SUBJ: CODEL WOLFF -- SUPPLEMENTAL BRIEFING MATERIAL

1. FOLLOWING INFORMATION IS IN RESPONSE TO INTEREST EXPRESSED BY CODEL IN CERTAIN POLITICAL TOPICS.

2. US AND NORTH KOREA. JAPANESE OFFICIALS HAVE PRIVATELY MAINTAINED THAT ANY WITHDRAWAL OF US GROUND TROOPS FROM SOUTH KOREA SHOULD BE ACCOMPANIED BY DIPLOMATIC INITIATIVES TO PROMOTE LONG-TERM REDUCTION OF TENSIONS ON KOREAN PENINSULA. THEY RECOGNIZE THAT AT SOME POINT IN ANY SUCH DIPLOMATIC EFFORT US WOULD HAVE TO ESTABLISH SOME FORM OF CONTACT WITH NORTH KOREA. MEMORIES OF 1971 CHINA SHOCK, HOWEVER, STILL LINGER AND GOJ WOULD BE PARTICULARLY DISTURBED BY SUDDEN RE-VELATION OF ANY SECRET US-NORTH KOREAN NEGOTIATIONS. LIFTING OF US TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS AND RUMORS OF KIM IL-SUNG'S LETTER TO PRESIDENT CARTER STIMULATED SOME PRESS SPECUALTION IN THIS DIRECTION. DURING MARCH VISIT TO WASHINGTON, HOWEVER, SECRETARY VANCE REASSURED FONMIN HATOYAMA THAT BILATERAL US-NORTH KOREAN TALKS WHICH WOULD EXCLUDE SOUTH KOREAN PARTICIPATION REMAINED UNACCEPTABLE TO US.

3. OCCASIONALLY JAPANESE POLITICIANS WITH CONTACTS IN NORTH KOREA-- NOTABLY INDEPENDENT DIET MEMBERS UTSUNOMITY AND JSP'S DEN -- ATTEMPT TO CAST THEMSELVES AS INTERMEDIARIES BETWEEN PYONGYANG AND WASHINGTON.
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RECENTLY PRO-NORTH KOREAN CHOSEN SOREN NEWSMEN HAVE EXPRESSED IN-TEREST THROUGH LOCAL OFFICE OF AMERICAN FRIENDS SERVICE COMMITTEE IN VISITING US.

4. KOREAN COMMUNITY IN JAPAN. KOREAN COMMUNITY IN JAPAN NUMBERS APPROXIMATELY 650,000. ROUGHLY ONE-THIRD MIGHT BE DESCRIBED AS PRO-

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NORTH KOREAN, ONE-THIRD PRO-SOUTH SOUTH KOREAN, AND REMAINDER POLITICALLY NEUTRAL. MAJORITY OF POLITICALLY ACTIVE KOREANS BELONG EITHER TO PRO-NORTH KOREAN CHOSEN SOREN OR PRO-SOUTH KOREAN MINDAN. EACH ORGANIZATION CONDUCTS VARIOUS POLITICAL PROGRAMS WITH GUIDANCE AND SUPPORT OF HOME GOVERNMENT. THESE ORGANIZATIONS ACT AS COMPLICATING FACTOR TO WHICH GOJ MUST BE SENSITIVE IN ITS CONDUCT OF RELATIONS WITH NORTH AND SOUTH KOREA, BUT DO NOT WIELD DIRECT POLITICAL INFLUENCE. THERE ARE INDICATIONS CHOSEN SOREN IS CURRENTLY SUFFERING SERIOUS MORALE AND FINANCIAL PROBLEMS.

5. IN RECENT MONTHS, CHOSEN SOREN HAS MADE SOME EFFORT TO INFLUENCE US OPINION AND POLICIES ON KOREA THROUGH:
--LETTER-WRITING CAMPAIGN TO EMBASSY URGING IMMEDIATE TROOP WITHDRAWAL;
--UNUSUAL MEETING OF SENIOR CADRE WITH AMERICAN CORRESPONDENTS RESIDENT IN TOKYO;
--ATTEMPT TO SEND MEMGERS OF SECRETLY AFFILIATED KOREAN GROUP TO CONFERENCE IN NEW YORK ON KOREAN MATTERS (WHICH FAILED BECAUSE GOJ REFUSED TO ISSUE REENTRY PERMISSION);
--ATTEMPT MENTIONED ABOVE OF CHOSEN SOREN NEWSMEN TO VISIT US ON "NON-POLITICAL" TRIP.

6. JAPANESE OPPOSITION PARTIES. THOUGH THE OPPOSITION PARTIES TOGETHER OBTAINED SLIGHTLY MORE THAN FIFTY PERCENT OF THE POPULAR VOTE IN THE DECEMBER 1976 LOWER HOUSE ELECTION, THEY REMAIN FRAGMENTED AND INCAPABLE OF COOPERATING TO FORM A GOVERNMENT. THE LDP, IN AFFILIATION WITH CONSERVATIVE INDEPENDENTS, MAINTAINS A PAPER-THIN MAJORITY OF SEATS. THE SOCIALIST AND COMMUNISTS APPEAR TO BE LOSING GROUND.
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7. IF THE LIBERAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY SHOULD LOSE ITS MAJORITY IN THE JULY UPPER HOUSE ELECTION, THE PARTY MAY BE FORCED TO TURN INCREASINGLY TO THE MODERATE OPPOSITION FOR LEGISLATIVE COOPERATION ON A CASE-BY-CASE BASIS. IT IS UNLIKELY THAT THIS WOULD IN THE SHORT-TERM LEAD TO DIRECT OPPOSITION PART PARTICIPATION IN THE GOVERNMENT, HOWEVER.

8. JAPAN AND UN SECURITY COUNCIL. JAPANESE WERE QUITE PLEASED WITH PRESIDENT CARTER'S EXPRESSION OF SUS SUPPORT FOR JAPAN'S PERMANENT MEMBERSHIP ON UN SECURITY COUNCIL. AT SAME TIME, THEY ARE WELL AWARE OF MANY DIFFICULTIES INVOLVED IN REVISING PERMANENT MEMBER-SHIP OF SECURITY COUNCIL AND DO NOT EXPECT TO GAIN THEIR SEAT IN NEAR FUTURE.
SHOESMITH

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Decaption Note:
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Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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